A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Education – School Construction – Pedestrian Safety Plans
(Safe Walk to School Act)

FOR the purpose of requiring certain county boards of education seeking State funds for the construction of a new school, or the renovation of or an addition to an existing school that would increase the capacity by more than a certain number of students, to submit a pedestrian safety plan to the Interagency Commission on School Construction; requiring the Interagency Commission to review the pedestrian safety plans in consultation with the State Highway Administration; and generally relating to pedestrian safety plans for schools.

BY adding to
Article – Education
Section 5–324
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

5–324.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) “HIGH–DENSITY COUNTY” MEANS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING JURISDICTIONS:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
(I) ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY;

(II) BALTIMORE CITY;

(III) BALTIMORE COUNTY;

(IV) HOWARD COUNTY;

(V) MONTGOMERY COUNTY; OR

(VI) PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY.

(3) "LOW–DENSITY COUNTY" MEANS ANY COUNTY NOT LISTED IN
PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(B) (1) A COUNTY BOARD IN A HIGH–DENSITY COUNTY SEEKING STATE
Funds for the construction of a new school, or the renovation of or an
addition to an existing school that would increase the capacity of the
school by more than 100 students, shall submit a pedestrian safety plan
to the Interagency Commission as part of the review and approval
process.

(2) A COUNTY BOARD IN A LOW–DENSITY COUNTY SHALL SUBMIT A
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PLAN TO THE INTERAGENCY COMMISSION AS PART OF THE
REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS IF THE COUNTY BOARD IS SEEKING STATE FUNDS
FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SCHOOL, OR THE RENOVATION OF OR AN
ADDITION TO AN EXISTING SCHOOL, IN A CITY WITH MORE THAN 10,000 RESIDENTS
AND THE CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATION WOULD INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF THE
SCHOOL BY MORE THAN 100 STUDENTS.

(3) THE INTERAGENCY COMMISSION SHALL REVIEW THE
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PLANS IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATION.

(C) A PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PLAN SHALL:

(1) BE DEVELOPED IN COLLABORATION WITH:

(I) THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OR
EQUIVALENT AGENCY OF THE JURISDICTION LISTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF
THIS SECTION WHOSE COUNTY BOARD IS SUBMITTING THE PLAN; AND

(II) THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION;
(2) Identify existing and potential safe routes for students to walk or bike to the school;

(3) Evaluate the infrastructure, including sidewalk infrastructure, along existing and potential pedestrian or cyclist routes to the school to determine whether increased capacity is necessary;

(4) Analyze existing and potential school zones, including the need for expanding school zones on state and county roads; and

(5) Include documentation of public participation and input related to the pedestrian safety plan, including minutes from a public hearing and written comments.

(D) The Interagency Commission may adopt regulations to carry out this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022.